

THE FARMER AND HIS DONKEYS By Jeremy Taylor

In a village in England there was a farmer. The farmer had two donkeys, one called Bill and the other called Ben. Bill and Ben lived in a square field. There was a fence in the middle of the field. On one side lived Bill and on the other, lived Ben. Every morning the farmer fed Bill in one corner and then fed Ben in the opposite corner. This went on for many years. One day the farmer decided to do a little test. Bill and Ben slept in small wooden huts near the fence. One evening, once the two donkeys were asleep, the farmer tied a rope around Bill's neck, then he tied the other end of the rope around Ben's neck. He then took down the fence and put a big pile of oats (donkeys' favourite food) in Bill's corner and in Ben's corner.

When the two donkeys woke up, they were quite surprised to find a rope around their necks. Then when they went outside, they had another surprise when they saw that the farmer had taken down the fence. Then, feeling hungry, the two donkeys saw a pile of oats in their respective corners. "Mmm, oats!" said Bill. "I love oats!" and he walked off towards his corner.

"Mmm, oats!" said Ben. "I love oats!" and he walked off towards his corner.

Well, after ten metres, both donkeys got a nasty surprise. The rope was too short. First Bill pulled hard and Ben slid away from his food. But then pulled and Ben slid away from his food. This went on for hour after hour. The farmer watched as the two donkeys pulled and pulled, only thinking of their own pile of oats. The donkeys were getting weaker and weaker, but still they pulled and pulled. Then Bill had an idea. "Hey Ben!" he shouted. "Why don't you come over to my corner and we can eat my oats together, then we can go to your corner and eat your oats together."

"Good idea, Bill," said Ben, so Ben stopped pulling and joined his friend and the two donkeys enjoyed the two piles of oats together. The farmer smiled. 'I wish more people were as intelligent as my donkeys'.

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